

Meeting Summary

Round 1 Public Meetings, January 13-14, 2004



The Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a Major Corridor Feasibility Study (MCFSS) for an approximate 47-mile segment of SH 35, located in Harris and Brazoria Counties, from IH 45 in downtown Houston to SH 288 in the City of Angleton. Cities and communities along the corridor include Houston, Brookside Village, Pearland, Friendswood, Alvin, and Angleton.

The purpose of this report is to document the activities used to solicit public/agency participation, as well as input received, during the project's first series of public meetings held on January 13-14, 2004.

MEETING PURPOSE

The first series of public meetings was held in two different locations along the corridor to provide ample opportunity for interested citizens to attend. The meeting time for each of these locations was 6-8 p.m.

- Tuesday, January 13, 2004, Nolan Ryan Center, 2925 South Bypass 35, Alvin
- Wednesday, January 14, 2004, Hilton-Hobby Airport, 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston

The purpose of these meetings was to present the study to the public and solicit their input to assist in transportation planning for this corridor. These meetings also served as the Public Scoping Meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) TxDOT is currently preparing for the segment of SH 35 from Bellfort Road in Harris County to FM 1462 in Brazoria County.

ATTENDANCE

Almost 200 people attended the public meetings:

- Alvin — 80 citizens, 3 elected officials/representatives, 10 TxDOT representatives, and 13 consultant team members
- Houston — 64 citizens, 1 elected official/representative, 6 TxDOT representatives, and 12 consultant team members

MEETING FORMAT

Both meetings were conducted in an "open house" format and consisted of various exhibits including large-scale aerial maps. Meeting attendees were invited to review the information at their leisure. TxDOT and consultant team members were available to answer questions and discuss concerns. Attendees were encouraged to fill out and turn in comment forms provided or submit their comments by mail.

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PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

A total of 104 written questionnaires were received — 35 from attendees to the meeting in Alvin, 30 from Houston meeting attendees, and 39 mailed to TxDOT. A complete tally of the questionnaires is included at the end of this document. The following summarizes the responses:

Location of respondents

This question asked the respondent what zip code they reside in. The majority of respondents reside within zip code 77511 in Alvin (48%) and 77061 (13%) in the Hobby area of Houston. Respondents from other areas included Pearland, Brookside Village, Friendswood, and Angleton.

Travel Frequency

This question asked respondents how often they travel SH 35 with choices of more than once a day, daily, 4-5 days a week, 2-3 days a week, or weekends only. The highest percentage of respondents said they travel more than once a day (33%), while 25% say they travel daily, 19% travel 2-3 days a week, 13% travel 4-5 days a week, 9% travel during the weekends only and 1% do not travel SH 35 at all.

Typical Travel Times

This question asked the respondent when they typically travel the corridor with possible answers being AM peak period (6-9 a.m.), PM peak period (4-7 p.m.), non-rush hour, or weekends. Out of the responses given, there is no clear prime travel time for the SH 35 corridor — 60% travel during non-rush hour, 56% during PM peak period, 56% during AM peak period and 51% during the weekend.

Purpose of Trips

Respondents were asked the purpose of their SH 35 trips with choices of commuting to/from work, performing work-related activities, commuting to/from school, non-work related activities such as shopping, etc, or other specified activities. The highest percentage of respondents (70%) use SH 35 for non-work related activities.

Most Beneficial Types of Improvements

Respondents were asked to identify what improvements they believe would benefit SH 35 the most. Choices included constructing new lanes on existing roadways, upgrading existing facilities, constructing new roadways, designated truck lanes, adding HOV lanes, and public transit options. The highest percentage of respondents believe upgrading/repairing existing infrastructure (60%) and constructing new lanes on existing roadways (57%) would be most beneficial to the corridor.

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Level of Interest

This question asked the respondent what type of SH 35 stakeholder they are. The majority of respondents (75%) are local property owners.

Additional Comments

Respondents made numerous additional comments. Specific suggestions called out by more than one respondent include add center turning lanes, synchronize signals, add overpasses, complete the Alvin bypass, and do not build toll roads/Grand Parkway.

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Questionnaire Tally

Number of questionnaires tallied 104

Zip codes

77511	50
77061	13
77581	6
77021	5
77075	4
77087	4
77512	3
77017	2
77577	2
77584	2
77002	1
77023	1
77036	1
77048	1
77089	1
77515	1
77516	1
77539	1
77546	1
77573	1
77583	1
77598	1

How often do you travel the SH 35 Corridor Study Area?

More than once a day	35
Daily	26
2 – 3 days a week	20
4 – 5 days a week	14
Weekends only	11
Not at all	1

When do you typically travel the SH 35 Corridor?

Non-rush hour	63
AM peak period (6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.)	59
PM peak period (4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)	59
Weekend	54

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What is the typical purpose of these trips?

Non-work related such as shopping, recreational, medical, or civic activities	73
Performing work-related activities	52
Commuting to and from work.....	48
Commuting to and from school	9

What types of improvements do you believe would be the most beneficial for SH 35 Corridor and adjacent communities?

Upgrade/repair existing infrastructure	62
Construct new lanes on existing roadways	59
Implement Congestion Management Strategies	33
Improve railroad crossings.....	30
Roadway maintenance	31
Develop/improve public transit facilities.....	29
Implement High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes	26
Construct new controlled access roadway/toll facility	17
Designate truck lanes	19
Develop/improve non-motorized transportation system.....	15
Other	
Overpasses/bypasses	5
Alternative route for trucks.....	2
Complete the Alvin bypass	2
No Grand Parkway/tollway.....	2
Sound barrier.....	1
Flood control	1

Who do you represent at this meeting? (check all that apply)

Local Property Owner	78
Local Commuter/SH 35 User.....	33
Local Business	32
Special Interest Group.....	12
Local Renter.....	4
Elected Official	3
Other:	
Developer.....	1
School District	1

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Additional comments (By category)

Environmental Issues

Drainage problems/flood control	4
Protect environment along the corridor	2
Pollution concerns.....	2
Add sound barriers	2
Sprawl concerns.....	1
Will negatively divide neighborhoods	1
Property values a concern	1

Safety

Mykawa railroad crossing.....	2
Improve dangerous intersections	1
Fire trucks go 4 blocks before they can turn into Garden Villas	1
Crack down on all laws.....	1
Too many large trucks on SH 35	1

Suggested Repairs/Improvements

Complete overpasses (McCord, FM 528, and FM 517 were singled out)	4
Add center turning lanes	3
Synchronize signals	3
Upgrade SH 35 from Houston to Angleton in lieu of Grand Parkway	1
Improve transportation from Houston to medical center	1
Improve congestion on SH 288 & IH 45	1
Improve congestion south of Beltway 8 at Cole's Flea Market in Pearland.....	1
Major congestion at FM 1462, Bus 35 and Loop 35	1
SH 35 South made freeway or HOV	1
Multi-lanes w/continuous left turn and no curbs	1
Upgrade Mykawa corridor from Bellfort to Orange Street.....	1
Improve Telephone Road	1
Highway south of Bay City is a disaster	1
Improve Northdale & remove ditches & insert proper drainage.....	1
Add railroad overpass from SH 35 bypass north of Alvin	1
Study intersection of SH 35 and Donaldson	1
Widen Beltway 8 to Alvin to 7 lanes	1
Widen Woody Road.....	1
Only 2 lanes from Alvin makes SH 35 undesirable route.....	1
Road base cracking up	1
Fix Bellfort railroad crossing	1
Upgrade existing railroad corridor from Alvin through Pearland to South Houston.....	1
Close some of the crossroads on the loop around Alvin	1
Make SH 35 a "No Build" zone.....	1

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Suggested Alignments

Finish bypass in Alvin	9
Study westerly direction to SH 288	1
Define a viable north-south corridor through Pearland west of SH 35 and east of FM 1128	1
Obtain SH 35 ROW from FM 1462 to SH 288 for 4-lane, divided highway expansion	1
Build new Mykawa	1
Extend Spur 5 over Griggs, Mykawa and along railroad tracks	1
Bypass in Angleton would help congestion.....	1

Alternate Transit Options

Extend rail south of Hobby Airport	1
Expand METRO service to Alvin.....	1
Improve shoulders for bicycles.....	1
Push should be made to increase use of public transportation.....	1

Toll Road

No Grand Parkway/toll road	10
Free exits from downtown to Bellfort.....	1
Make Bellfort a toll road.....	1
Toll corridor at Grand Parkway will cause congestion at toll plaza	1
Toll road from Beltway 8 through Pearland to Alvin	1
Toll road from Spur 5 and OST to Beltway 8.....	1

Miscellaneous

Stop allowing street vendors at Beltway 8 and Telephone Road.....	1
Reference Map: roadway corridor too wide	1
Don't let Grand Parkway go through.....	1
Realtors shouldn't dictate what TxDOT does.....	1
Confusing info re-coordination of Grand Parkway, SH 288, and SH 35.....	1
Don't overstudy	1
Will ROW land be needed?	1